

**UNCLASSIFIED**

Security Classification

**DOCUMENT CONTROL DATA - R & D**

(Security classification of title, body of abstract and indexing annotation must be entered when the overall report is classified)

1. ORIGINATING ACTIVITY (Corporate author) U. S. Test and Evaluation Command Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland 21005		2a. REPORT SECURITY CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED
		2b. GROUP
3. REPORT TITLE U. S. Test and Evaluation Command, System Service Test Operations Procedure, "Mat Sets, Landing".		
4. DESCRIPTIVE NOTES (Type of report and inclusive dates) Final		
5. AUTHOR(S) (First name, middle initial, last name)		
6. REPORT DATE 16 February 1972	7a. TOTAL NO. OF PAGES 7	7b. NO. OF REFS 4
8a. CONTRACT OR GRANT NO.	8b. ORIGINATOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S) TOP 7-3-070	
9. PROJECT NO. c. AMCR 310-6	9b. OTHER REPORT NO(S) (Any other numbers that may be assigned this report)	
10. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT Approved for public release; distribution unlimited.		
11. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES	12. SPONSORING MILITARY ACTIVITY Headquarters U. S. Army Test and Evaluation Command Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland 21005	
13. ABSTRACT Describes a method for evaluation of landing mat sets operational and functional performance characteristics. Identifies supporting tests, facilities, and equipment required. Provides procedures for functional performance tests.		

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DD FORM 1473 1 NOV 68

REPLACES DD FORM 1473, 1 JAN 64, WHICH IS  
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14 KEY WORDS	LINK A		LINK B		LINK C	
	ROLE	WT	ROLE	WT	ROLE	WT
GROUND SUPPORT EQUIPMENT, AVIATION						
MAT SET						
LANDING MATS						

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U. S. ARMY TEST AND EVALUATION COMMAND  
SYSTEM SERVICE TEST OPERATIONS PROCEDURE

AMSTE-RP-702-106

Test Operations Procedure 7-3-070

16 February 1972

AD 741857

MAT SETS, LANDING

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SECTION I  
GENERAL

1. Purpose and Scope. This TOP is to be used to test landing mat sets used in the construction of assault runways, taxiways, and apron surfacings for temporary airfields. Test phases include emplacement and flight operations of fixed and rotary wing aircraft.

2. Background. The need for prefabricated airfield surfacing materiel was established in the early days of World War II. As a result, pierced steel plank (PSP) was developed. By the end of WWII, several forms of PSP and pierced aluminum plank (PAP) were in use. Runways constructed from PSP AND PAP have faults due to the holes in the planking. The holes permit water to enter and soften the subgrade under the mat. When dry, the soil exposed through the holes is subject to erosion from propeller wash, jet blast and S/VTOL downwash impingement with a resulting dust problem. Modern concepts of mobility have intensified the demand for landing mats. Items currently in use meet the requirements for light, medium, and heavy duty mats based on sustained coverages and single wheel loads and are constructed of steel or aluminum.



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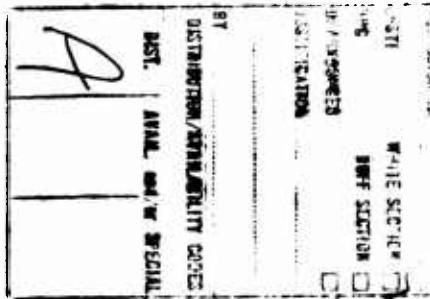
3. Equipment and Facilities. As defined in the tests listed in Section II and the following:

- a. Soil sampling and testing equipment.
- b. Surveying equipment, as required.

SECTION II  
TEST PROCEDURES

4. Supporting Tests. Common Service TOP's, the test defined in Section III, and other published documents to be considered in formulating a service test plan are as follows:

<u>TEST SUBJECT TITLE</u>	<u>PUBLICATION NO.</u>
a. Operator Training and Familiarization	10-3-501
b. Safety Hazards	2-3-501
c. Preoperational Inspection and Physical Characteristics	2-3-500
d. Functional Suitability (refer to para 5)	
e. Human Factors Engineering	2-3-516
f. Surface Transportability (Vehicles)	2-3-519
g. Airportability, Internal - Suitability of Supplies and Equipment for	7-3-515
h. Airportability, External - Suitability of Supplies and Equipment for	7-3-516
i. Maintainability	2-3-502
j. Maintenance Evaluation - Tools and Test Equipment	2-3-527
k. Maintenance Evaluation - Technical Manuscripts and Manuals	2-3-528
l. Reliability	2-3-507



SECTION III  
SUPPLEMENTARY INSTRUCTIONS

5. Functional Suitability.

a. Objective. To determine the suitability of the test item for use as an airfield surfacing medium capable of supporting heavy wheel loads on weak soils as defined by the Materiel Needs (MN) or applicable requirement documents.

b. Method. Select an airfield site using criteria stated in USAF TAC Manual No. 86-1 (ref 2 appendix). Determine load bearing strength and prepare the site as described in TM 5-330 (ref 3, appendix). (In the event an existing airfield is being used as the test site, the layout may be modified to fit existing runway and taxiway layout.) Construct an assault runway in accordance with manufacturer's instructions, or per TM 5-337 (ref 4, appendix). Perform aircraft operations with critical aircraft loaded to maximum allowable gross weight. Aircraft operations should include taxiing, locked wheel turns, run-up with locked brakes, normal and maximum performance take-offs, normal landings and landings with maximum braking and reverse thrust procedures. Perform these operations at both ends of the test runway under day and night and various weather conditions. Conduct rotary wing operations in accordance with prescribed procedures to include normal, shallow and steep approaches to a hover and to touchdown, running landings, and normal, maximum performance and running take-offs. Sufficient aircraft operations will be conducted to evaluate reliability requirements of the test item. Recover the test mat and prepare for shipment as prescribed in applicable technical publications.

c. Data Required.

(1) Nomenclature of test item and quantity required for test runway.

(2) Site conditions and preparation required.

(3) Time and personnel required for assembly and disassembly.

(4) Deficiencies and shortcomings observed in installation and recovery, and aircraft operations.

(5) Pilot comments during taxiing, landing, and take-off operations as to aircraft control, performance braking, depth perception, light reflectivity, surface roughness and vibration.

(6) Remarks concerning overall operation of the test item.

d. Analytical Plan. Evaluation test results to determine whether or not test items meet stated performance requirements.

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Recommended changes to this publication should be forwarded to Commanding General, U. S. Army Test and Evaluation Command, ATTN: AMSTE-ME, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland 21005. Technical information related to this publication may be obtained from the preparing activity, President, U. S. Army Armor and Engineer Board, ATTN: STEBB-MO, Fort Knox, Kentucky 40121. Additional copies of this document are available from the Defense Documentation Center, Cameron Station, Alexandria, Virginia 22314. This document is identified by the accession number (AD No.) printed on the first page.

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**APPENDIX  
REFERENCES**

1. AR 70-38, Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation of Materiel for Extreme Climatic Conditions.
2. U. S. Air Force TAC Manual No. 86-1, Landing Zone Criteria for C130 Aircraft, May 1965.
3. TM 5-330, Planning and Design of Roads, Airbases, and Heliports in the Theater of Operations.
4. TM 5-337, Paving and Surfacing Operations.